

# ***US EPAs R & D Activities Relevant to the ICCVAM Five Year Plan***

*Robert Kavlock, Director, NCCT*

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY



**COMPUTATIONAL  
TOXICOLOGY**

## Key Points

- ORD's mission is to lead the translation of scientific advances to address problems of national and international importance relative to protecting human health and the environment
- Multiple program offices within EPA recognize that the current methods for assessing chemical hazard and risk are insufficient for their tasks
  - *Legislation such as the new "Kid's Safe Chemicals Act" and FQPA in the U.S. and REACH in the EU highlight the problem*
- Recent advances in biology and computer sciences are enabling research that could not have been anticipated even 10 years ago.
- The transformation in toxicology necessitates an active research program within ORD and strategic staffing in the Program Offices
- ORD foresaw the emergence of computational toxicology, and its investment is now recognized internationally as the leading edge of change
  - *Requires integrated, multidisciplinary effort over prolonged period*

# Administrator Jackson's Priorities

- Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Improving Air Quality
- Managing Chemical Risks
  - “More that 30 years after Congress enacted the Toxic Substances Control Act, it is clear that we are not doing an adequate job of assessing and managing risks of chemicals in consumer products, the workplace and the environment. It is now time to revise and strengthen EPA's chemicals management and risk assessment programs”
  - “...we must be sensitive to the burdens pollution has placed on vulnerable subpopulations, including children, the elderly, the poor and all others who are at particular risk to threats to health and the environment. We must seek their full partnership in the greater aim of identifying and eliminating the sources of pollution in their neighborhoods, schools and homes.”
- Cleaning up Hazardous Waste Sites
- Protecting America's Water



# NAS/NRC Consultations



2007	<i>Toxicity Testing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Vision and a Strategy</i>
2007	<i>Applications of Toxicogenomic Technologies to Predictive Toxicology and Risk Assessment</i>
2008	<i>Phthalates and Cumulative Risk Assessment</i>
2008	<i>Science and Decisions-Advancing Risk Assessment</i>
2009	<i>Toxicity Pathway-Based Risk Assessment: Preparing for Paradigm Change, May 11-13, 2009</i>

# Transforming Toxicology

July 2007

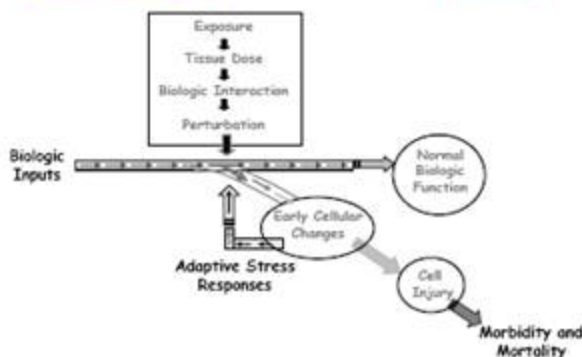
## Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century: A Vision and a Strategy

Advances in molecular biology, biotechnology, and other fields are paving the way for major improvements in how scientists evaluate the health risks posed by potentially toxic chemicals found at low levels in the environment. These advances would make toxicity testing quicker, less expensive, and more directly relevant to human exposures. They could also reduce the need for animal testing by substituting more laboratory tests based on human cells. This National Research Council report creates a far-reaching vision for the future of toxicity testing.

Toxicity tests on laboratory animals are conducted to evaluate chemicals—including medicines, food additives, and industrial, consumer, and agricultural chemicals—for their potential to cause cancer, birth defects, and other adverse health effects. Information from toxicity testing serves as an important part of the basis for public health and regulatory decisions concerning toxic chemicals. Current test methods were developed incrementally over the past 50 to 60 years and are conducted using laboratory animals, such as rats and mice. Using the results of animal tests to predict human health effects involves a number of assumptions and extrapolations that remain controversial. Test animals are exposed to higher than would be expected for typical human exposures, require assumptions about

effects at lower doses or exposures. Test animals are typically observed for overt signs of adverse health effects, which provide little information about biological changes leading to such health effects. Often controversial uncertainty factors must be applied to account for differences between test animals and humans. Finally, use of animals in testing is expensive and time consuming, and it sometimes raises ethical issues.

Today, toxicological evaluation of chemicals is poised to take advantage of the on-going revolution in biology and biotechnology. This

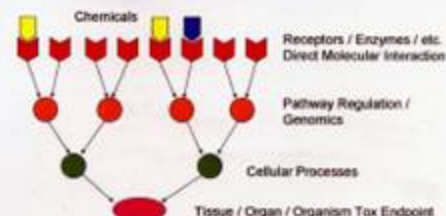


National Academy of Sciences

Office of Research and Development  
National Center for Computational Toxicology

EPA/100/K-09/001 | March 2009  
www.epa.gov/osa

## The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Strategic Plan for Evaluating the Toxicity of Chemicals



Office of the Science  
Policy Coordinator

## Strategic Goals

- Toxicity Pathway ID and Screening
- Toxicity Based Risk Assessment
- Institutional Transition

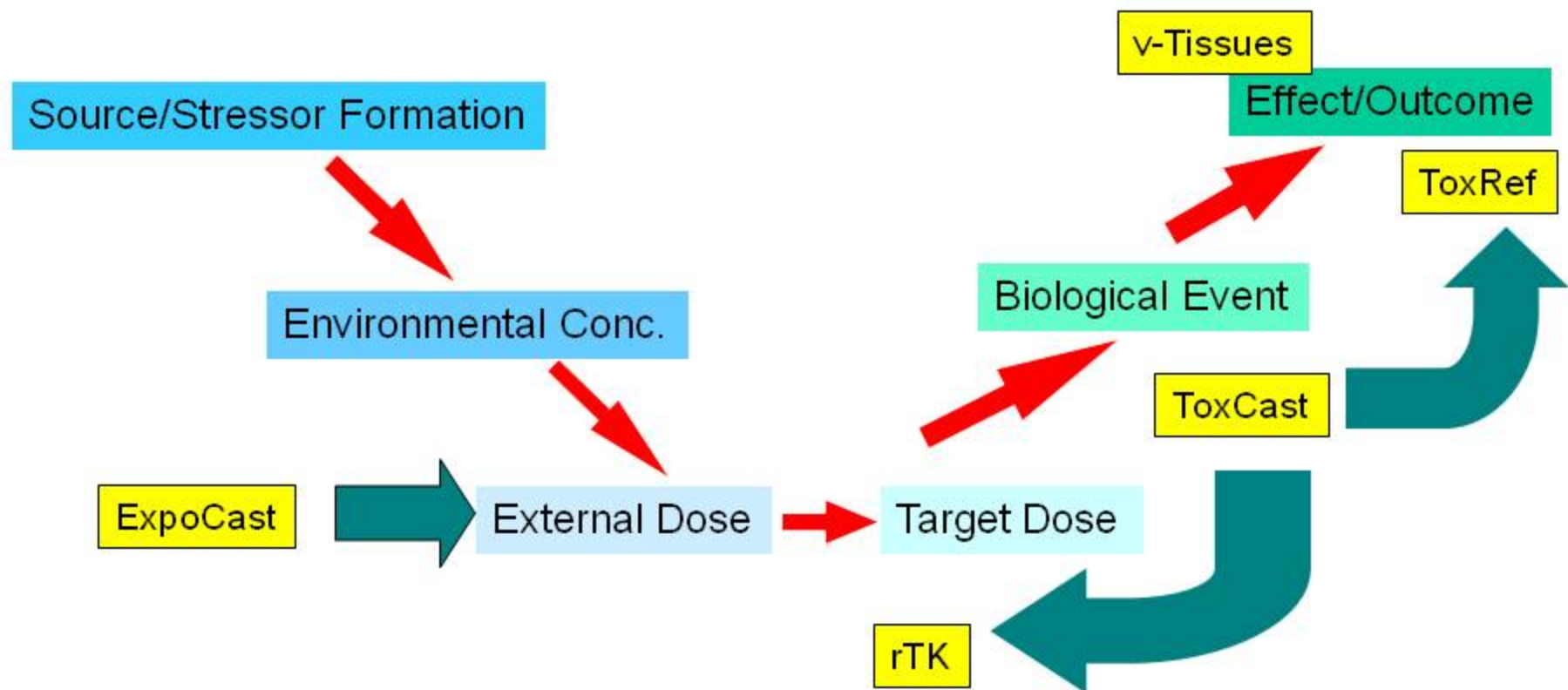


**“...to integrate modern computing and information technology with molecular biology to improve Agency prioritization of data requirements and risk assessment of chemicals”**

***Decision Support Tools for High-Throughput Risk Assessment***



# Applying Computational Toxicology Along the Source to Outcome Continuum



# ToxCast Prioritization Product Timeline

Phase	Number of Chemicals	Chemical Criteria	Purpose	Number of Assays	Cost per Chemical	Target Date
Ia	320	Data Rich (pesticides)	Signature Development	552	\$20k	FY08
Ib	15	Nanomaterials	Pilot	166	\$10K	FY09
IIa	>300	Data Rich Chemicals	Validation	>400	~\$20-25k	FY09
IIb	>100	Known Human Toxicants	Extrapolation	>400	~\$20-25k	FY09
IIc	>300	Expanded Structure and Use Diversity	Extension	>400	~\$20-25k	FY10
IId	>12	Nanomaterials	PMN	>200	~\$15-20K	FY09-10
III	Thousands	Data poor	Prediction and Prioritization	>300	~\$15-20k	FY11-12

FY07

FY08

FY09

FY10

FY11

FY12

Proof of Concept

Verification/Extension

Reduce to Practice



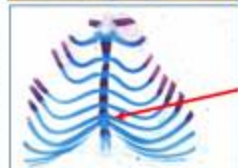
# Profiling developmental toxicity

*in vivo* endpoints (target, description)

[www.epa.gov/ncct/toxrefdb](http://www.epa.gov/ncct/toxrefdb)



target: kidney  
description: absent renal papilla  
code: UG\_REN\_3.1060.5013

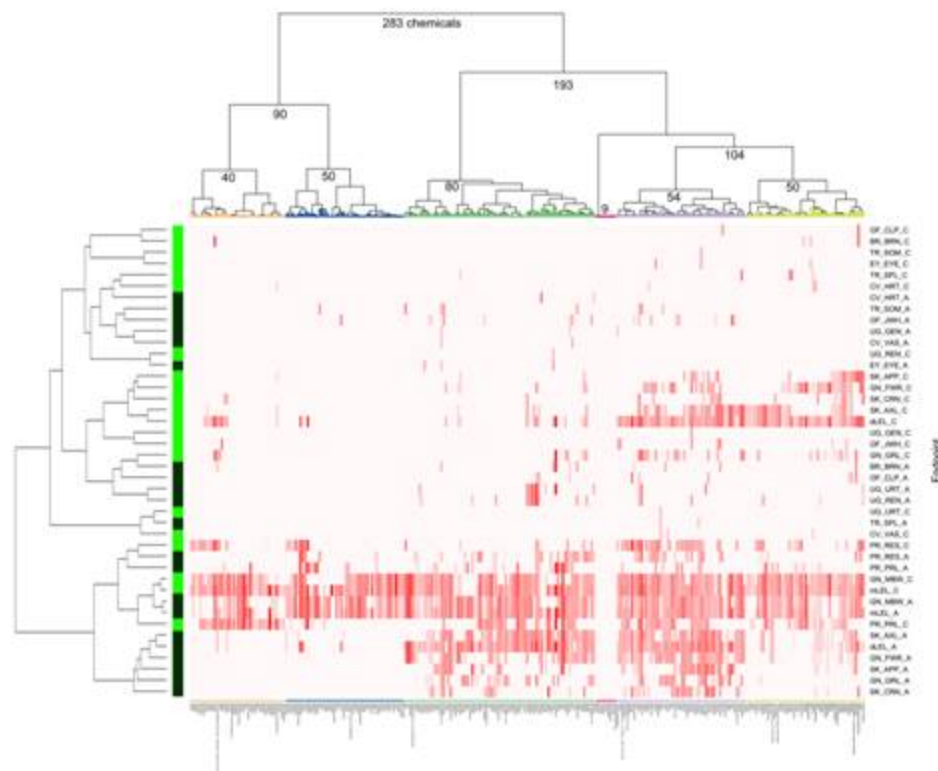


target: sternebra  
description: incomplete ossification  
code: SK\_AXL\_2.1099.5130



target: hindpaw  
description: polydactyly (digit I)  
code: SK\_APP\_2.1051.5234

Images from [www.DevTox.org](http://www.DevTox.org)

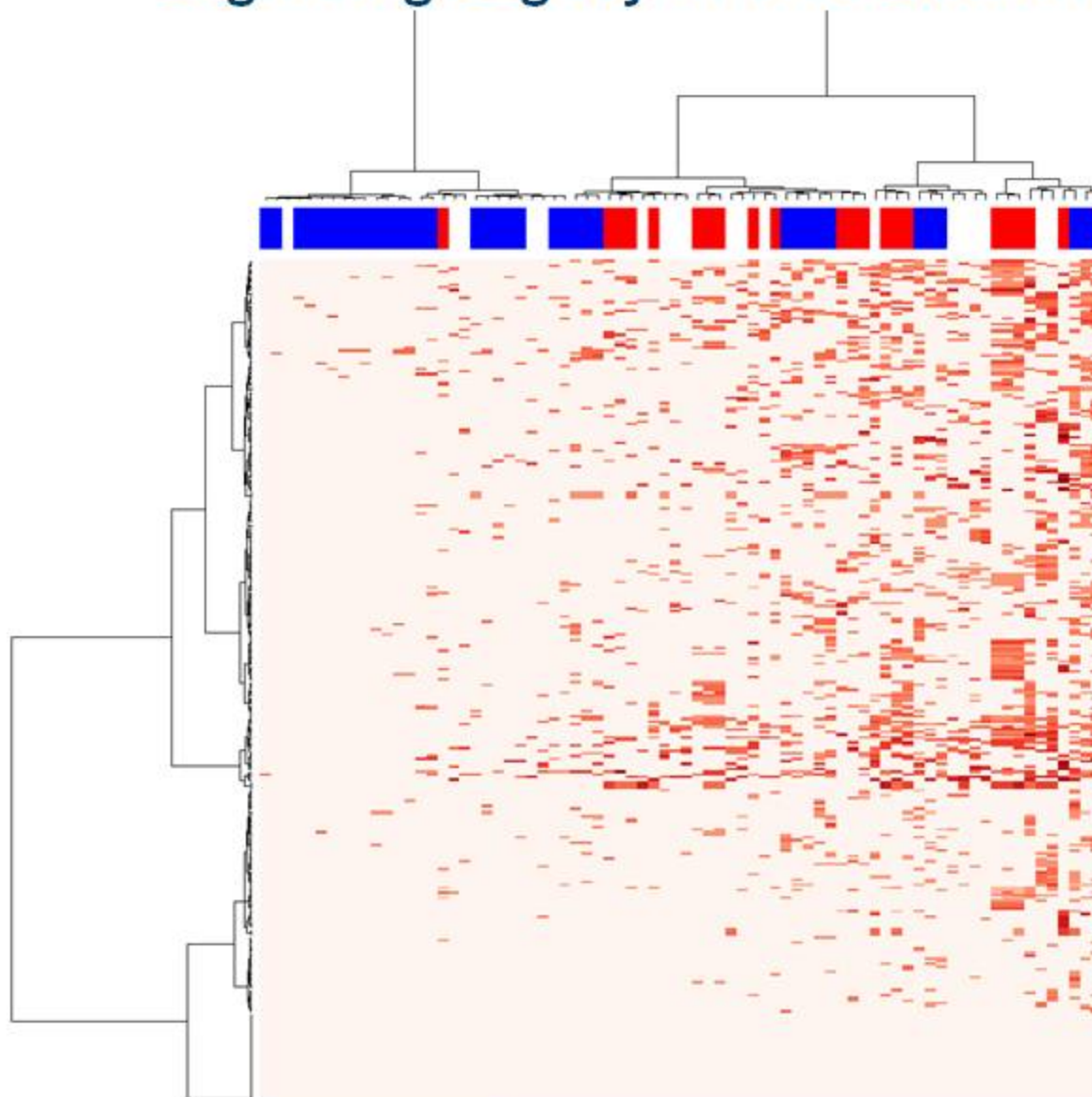


**ToxRefDB** 387 chemicals, 751 prenatal studies,  
988 effects annotated (enhanced DevTox.org)

283 chemicals x 293 effects → 19 target  
systems from rat (■) and rabbit (■) studies

# Digitizing Legacy *in Vivo* Data in ToxRefDB

Chemicals



Chronic/Cancer  
Multigenation  
Developmental

Martin et al 2009a,b  
Knudsen et al 2009

# ToxCast Assays

## Biochemical Assays

- Protein families
  - GPCR
  - NR
  - Kinase
  - Phosphatase
  - Protease
  - Other enzyme
  - Ion channel
  - Transporter
- Assay formats
  - Radioligand binding
  - Enzyme activity
  - Co-activator recruitment

## Cellular Assays

- Cell lines
  - HepG2 human hepatoblastoma
  - A549 human lung carcinoma
  - HEK 293 human embryonic kidney
- Primary cells
  - Human endothelial cells
  - Human monocytes
  - Human keratinocytes
  - Human fibroblasts
  - Human proximal tubule kidney cells
  - Human small airway epithelial cells
- Biotransformation competent cells
  - Primary rat hepatocytes
  - Primary human hepatocytes
- Assay formats
  - Cytotoxicity
  - Reporter gene
  - Gene expression
  - Biomarker production
  - High-content imaging for cellular phenotype

**467 Endpoints**

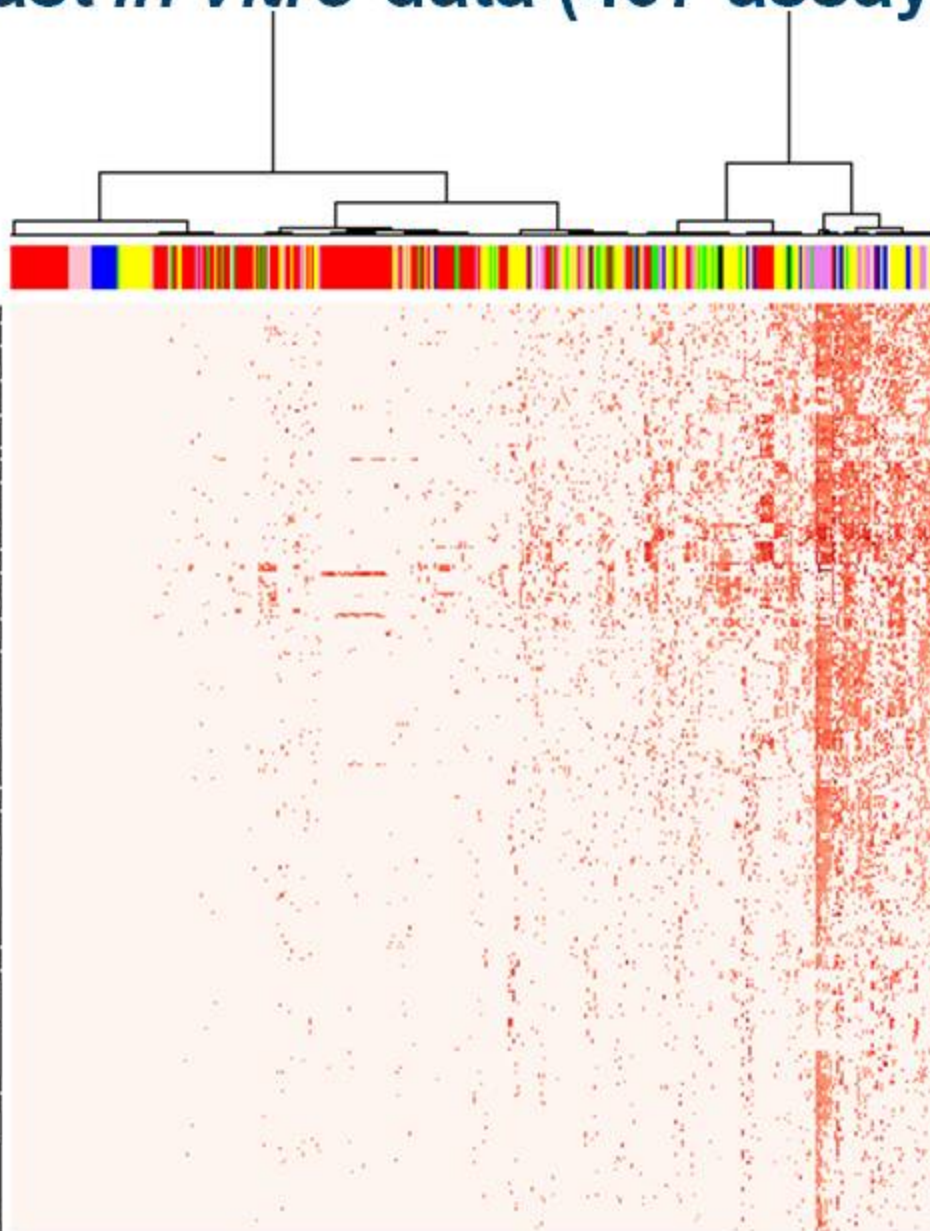


# ToxCast *in vitro* data (467 assays)

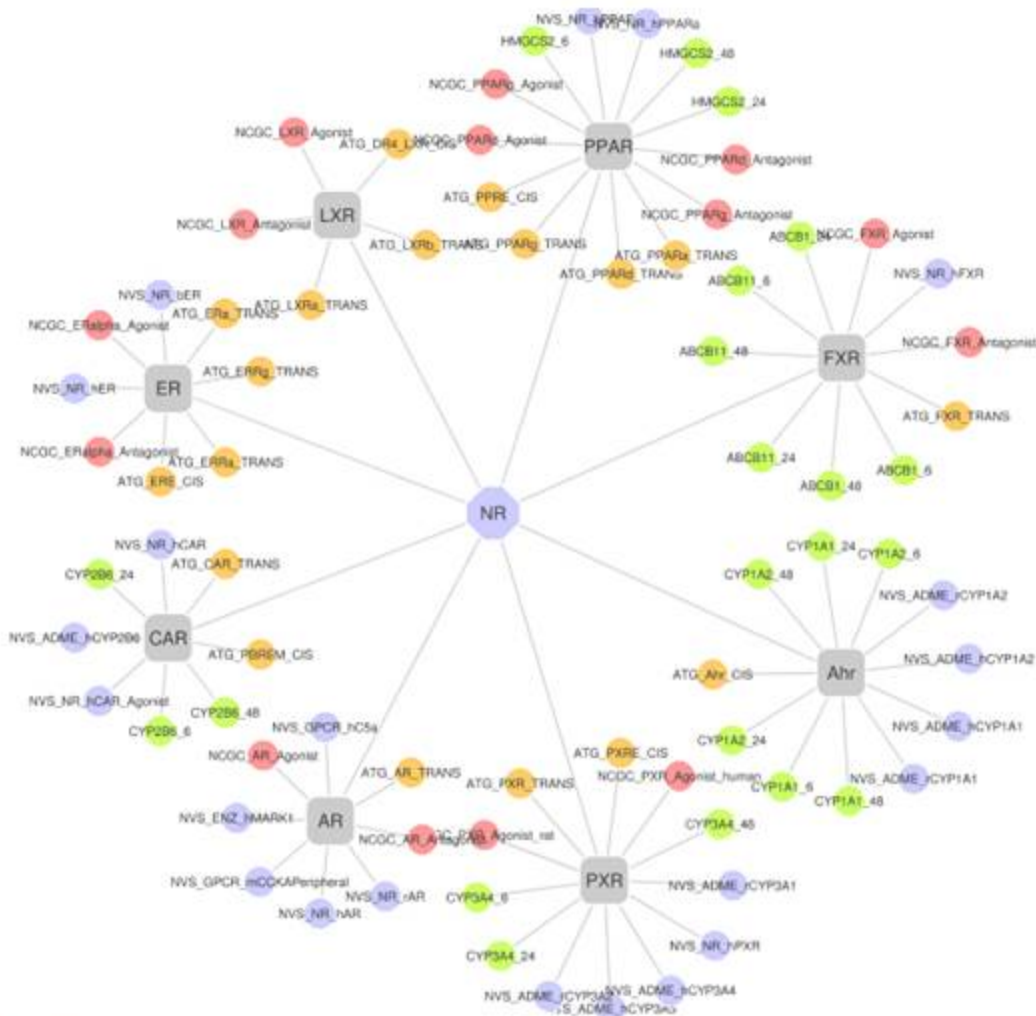
- Cell Free HTS
- Multiplexed TF
- Human BioMap
- HCS
- qNPAs
- XMEs
- Impedance
- Genotoxicity

Chemicals

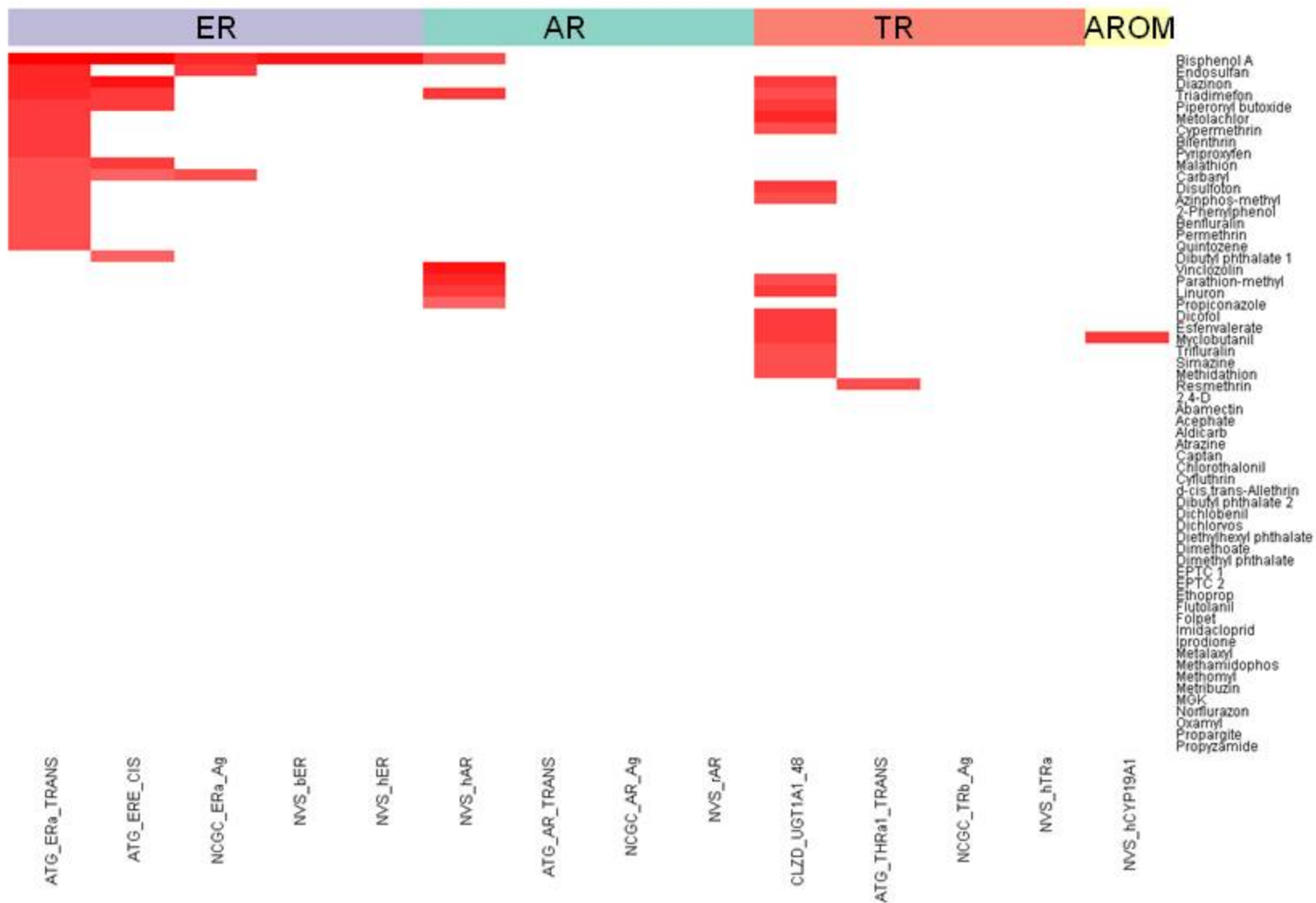
Judson et al, *submitted*



>200,000 dose response experiments



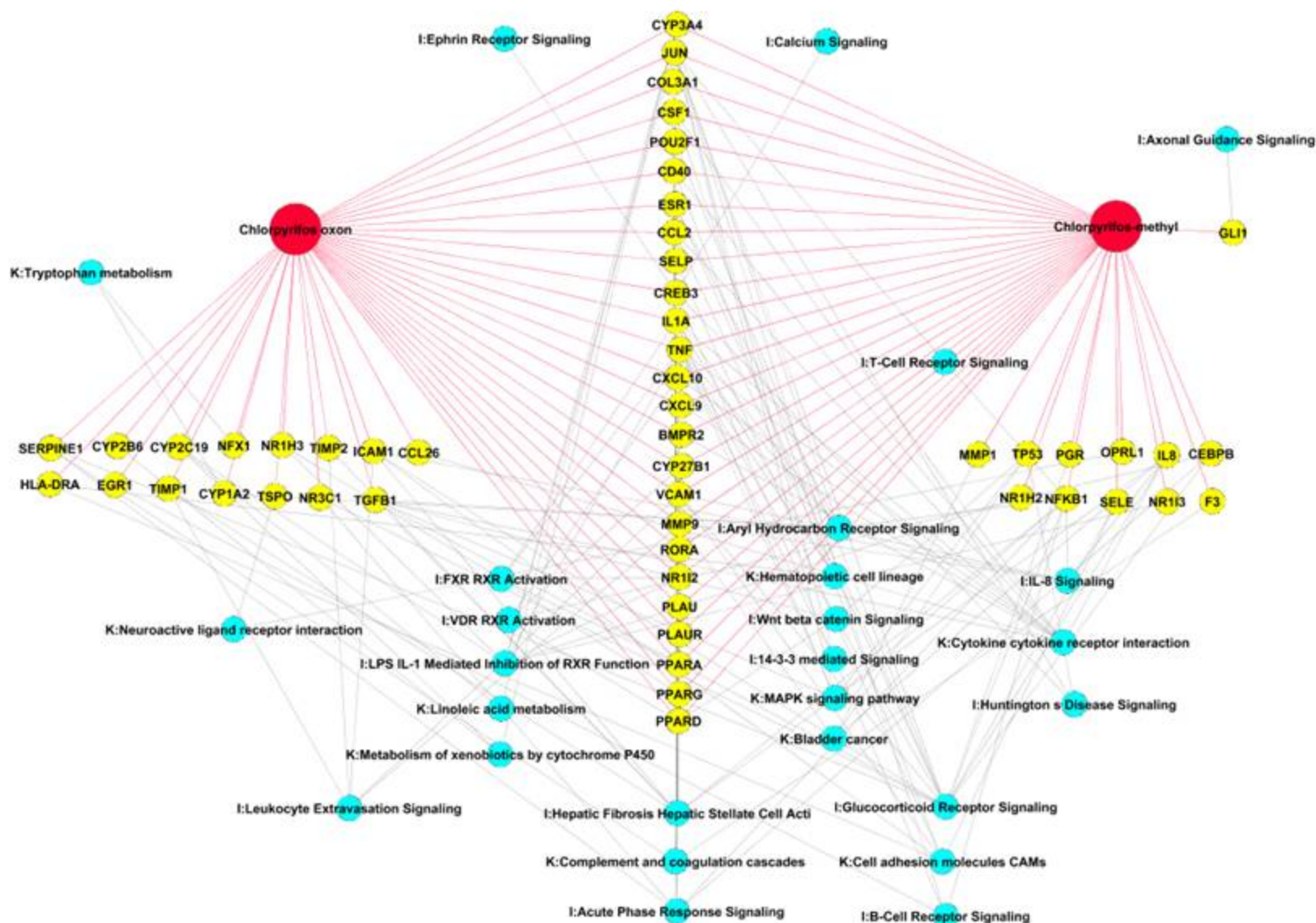
# Molecular Targets in ToxCast for Endocrine Profiling

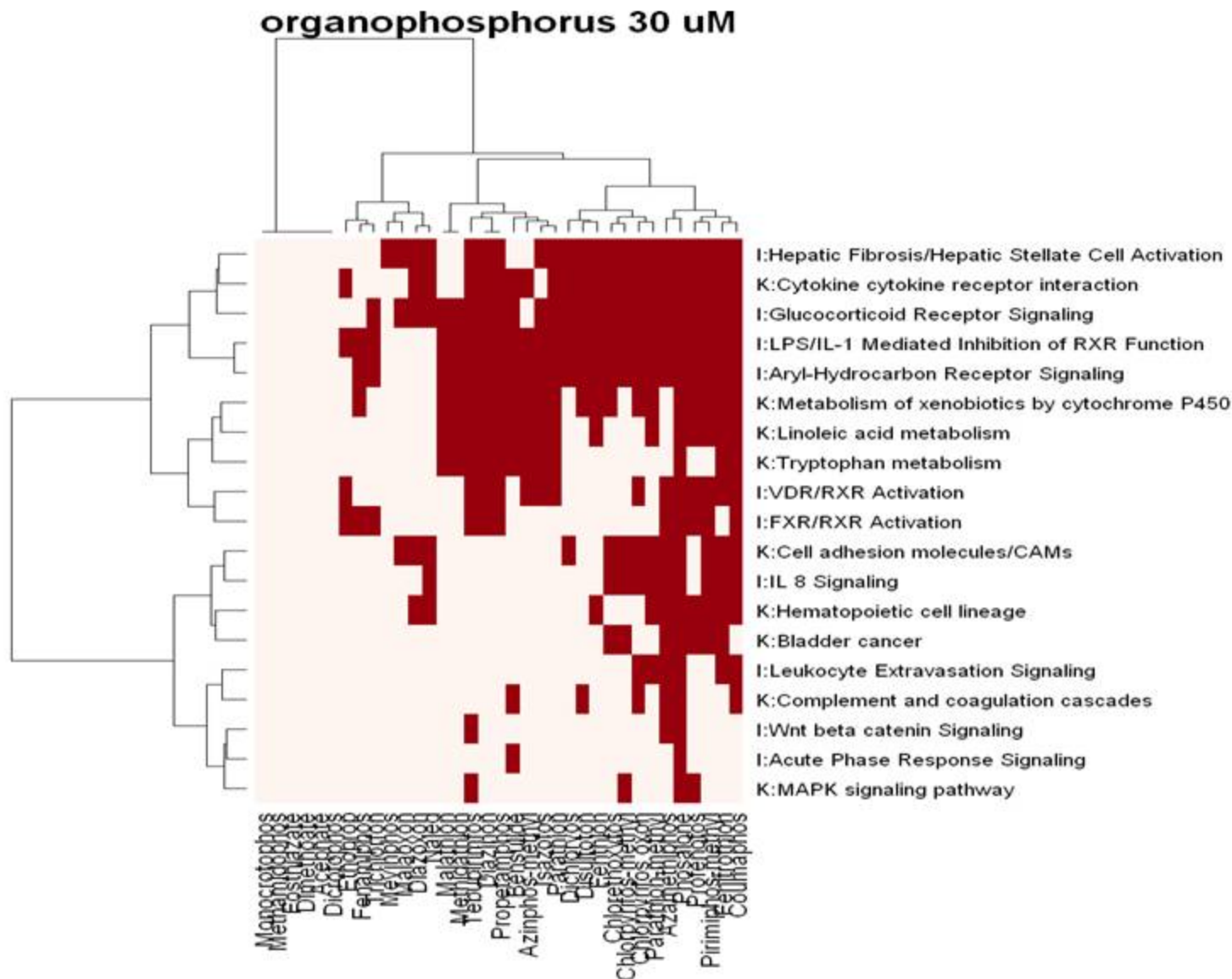




# Sample Prioritization Rankings for EDCS

CHEM_NAME	EDS P	AR Priority	ER Priority	TR Priority	AROM Priority	Other Priority	OVERAL Priority
Bisphenol A	X	0.52	18.27	0.18	0.00	4.95	23.22
Myclobutanil	X	0.00	0.12	0.23	4.00	2.28	6.62
Parathion-methyl	X	0.52	0.63	0.23	0.00	2.27	3.13
Endosulfan	X	0.00	1.75	0.18	0.00	0.85	2.60
Azinphos-methyl	X	0.00	0.12	0.61	0.00	1.85	2.57
Carbaryl	X	0.00	1.75	0.56	0.00	0.33	2.46
Methidathion	X	0.00	0.30	0.41	0.00	1.83	2.36
Triadimefon	X	0.52	0.82	0.41	0.00	1.31	2.36
Piperonyl butoxide	X	0.00	0.30	0.41	0.00	1.71	2.24
Propiconazole	X	0.52	0.82	0.18	0.00	1.42	2.24
Malathion	X	0.00	0.30	0.18	0.00	1.82	2.12
Linuron	X	0.52	0.52	0.61	0.00	0.97	2.10
Vinclozolin	X	0.52	0.63	0.00	0.00	1.21	1.84







# TDAS 1 Data Analysis Partners



## Lessons Learned from Phase I

- High quality HTS data is obtainable
- A number of expected observations were found, as were a number of unexpected ones
- Multiple assays per biological pathway are important to include
- Many chemicals in the library interact with a number of targets
- The in vitro and in vivo data sets are complicated and will require extensive data analysis to determine optimal approaches
- Prioritization scores based on hazard potential are feasible
- Metabolism remains a challenge to incorporate in many assays
- Greater numbers of chemicals and assays are needed

## MATERIALS TRANSFER AGREEMENT

### EPA:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Office of Research and Development (ORD)  
National Center for Computational Toxicology (NCCT)

### Pfizer:

Pfizer Inc, having a principal place of business at 235 East 42nd Street, New York, ("Pfizer") New York, 10017 and its Affiliates

WHEREAS the EPA wishes to obtain Pfizer Compounds to use in certain test assay panels, and whereas Pfizer wishes to have Pfizer Compounds evaluated on such test panels, the parties agree as follows:

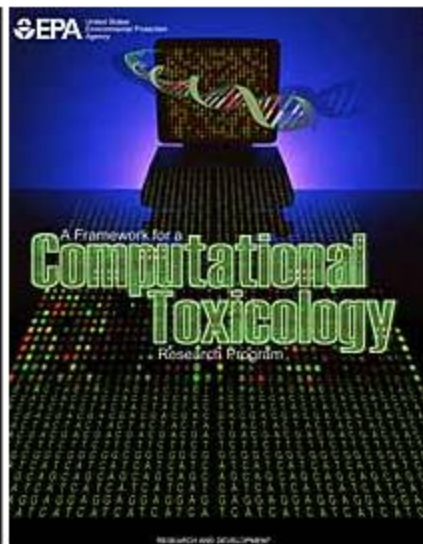
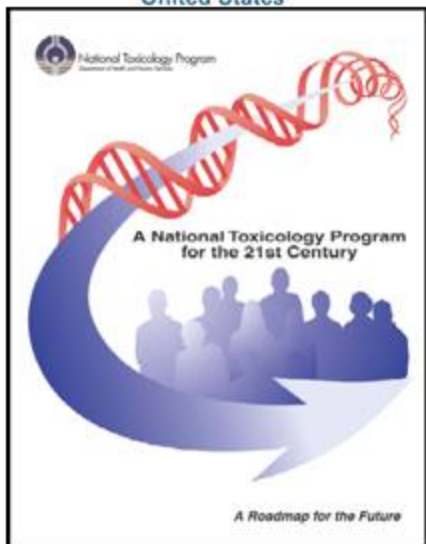
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"Affiliate" means any corporation, firm partnership or other entity which directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with either of the parties.

1. EPA agrees to receive Pfizer's compounds, listed in Exhibit B, in any form or any of its intermediates and derivatives ("Pfizer Compound"), in order to perform the research activities, further described in Exhibit A, and known as the "ToxCast<sup>TM</sup> Program."
2. The Pfizer Compounds:
  - a. are the property of Pfizer and all existing rights including, without limitation, patent rights in or to the Pfizer Compounds will remain the property of the Pfizer.
  - b. will be used with caution and for research purposes only, and shall not be used for research involving human subjects.
  - c. will be used only by the EPA in the ToxCast<sup>TM</sup> Program described below, under suitable containment conditions.
  - d. will not be used for screening, production or sale, for which a commercialization license may be required.

Both Pfizer and EPA agree to comply with all applicable laws, rules, guidelines and regulations applicable to the use, storage, shipping and the handling of the Pfizer Compounds and ToxCast<sup>TM</sup> Program.





2004 **1.4k Library** 2006 **2.8k Library** 2008 **10k Library** 2010

2005

2007

2009



Office of Research and Development  
National Center for Computational Toxicology

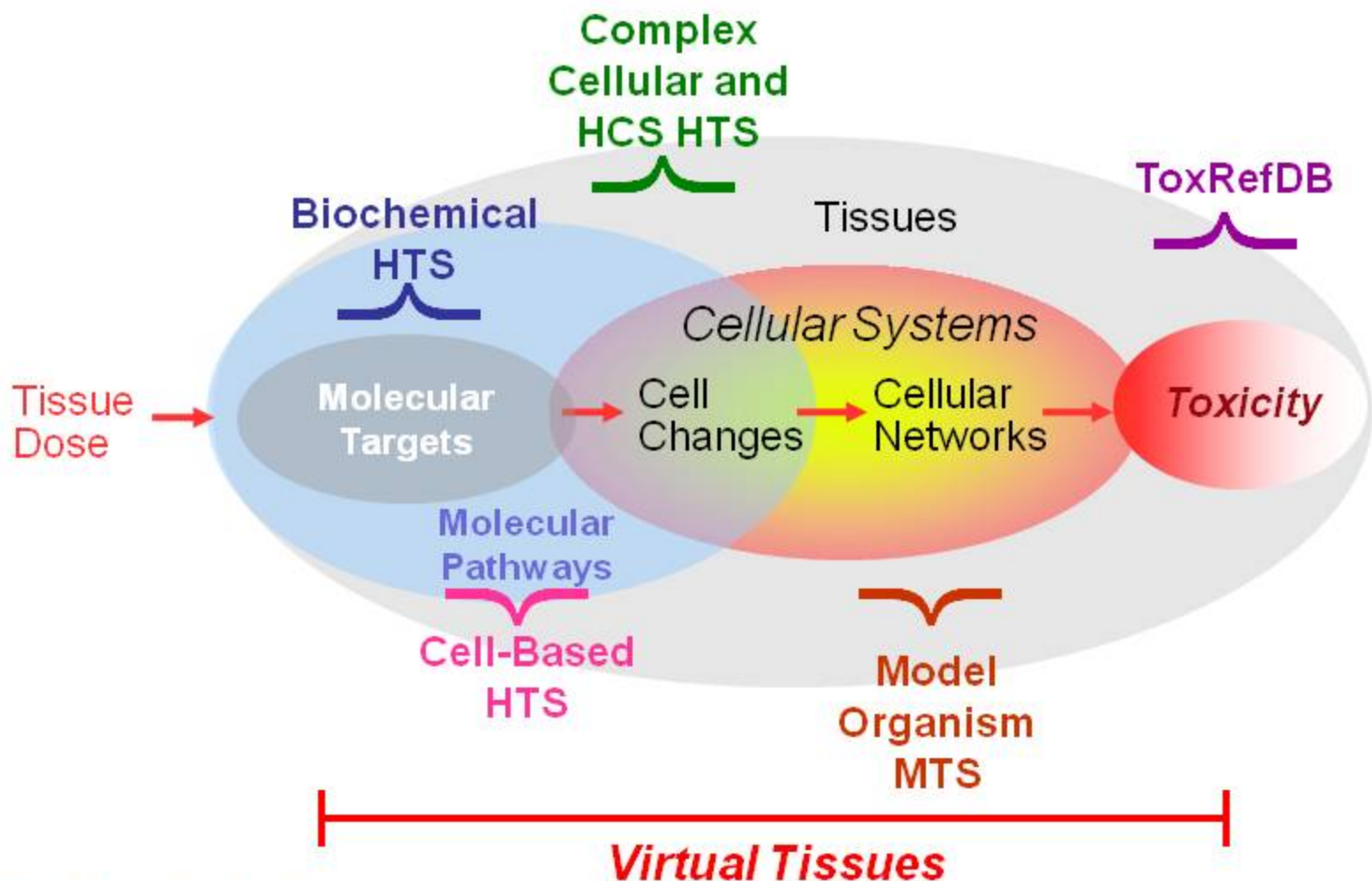


**5M data points to date**

# Tox21 Working Groups

- **Pathways/Assays - K. Witt (NTP), K. Houck (EPA), M. Xia (NCGC)**
  - Identify key toxicity pathways/assays (with a focus on human cells) and prioritize assays for use
  - Identify assay gaps and consider methods for filling those gaps
  - Develop methods for incorporating hepatic metabolism into *in vitro* assays
  - Consider approaches for evaluating compound, pathway, and cell-to-cell interactions
- **Compounds - C. Smith (NTP), A. Richard (EPA), N. Southall (NCGC)**
  - Establish a library ~10,000 compounds with known structures for testing at the NCGC
  - Establish procedures for determining the identity, purity, and stability of each compound
- **Bioinformatics - K. Shockley (NTP), R. Judson (EPA), R. Huang (NCGC)**
  - Evaluate patterns of response and relationship to adverse health outcomes in experimental animals and humans
  - Evaluate consistency of response within assays and across related endpoints
  - *Make all data publicly accessible (PubChem, ACToR, CEBS)*
- **Targeted Testing - J. Bucher (NTP), S. Edwards (EPA), J. Inglese (NCGC)**
  - Prioritize substances for more complex testing, including the use of alternative assay platforms or species (e.g., *C. elegans*, zebrafish)

# Predicting Human Toxicity: The Grand Challenge in Toxicology





# v-Liver™ Architecture

Assays

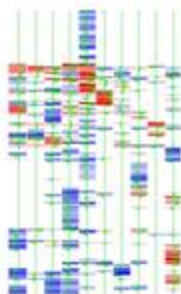
v-Liver  
Knowledgebase

v-Liver  
Simulator

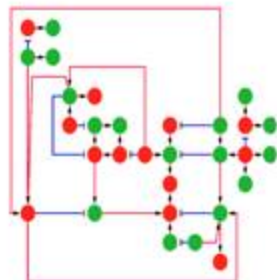
Outcomes



Env.  
Chems



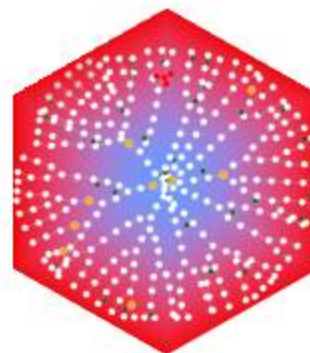
**ToxCast**  
HTS, HCS  
*ex vivo*



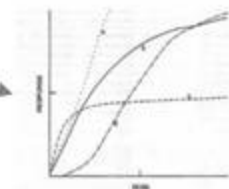
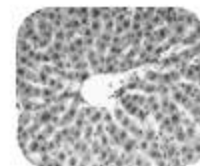
Molecular  
Events



Cell-Cell  
Events



Cell Sys. &  
Blood Flow



Cellular &  
Tissue Effects

# The Future State: Using Hazard and Exposure Information for Assisting Design and Prioritizing Testing and Monitoring

